

Flathead County Fair Commission
February 12, 2009

The Flathead County Fair Commission met in session February 12, 2009.

PRESENT: Vice Chairman Terry Fosbery; Commission Members: Ted Dykstra, Susan Munsinger, Paul Atkinson, Office Assistant Nuggett Carmalt.

ABSENT: Butch Woolard and Jay Scott

Guests were Don Hines, Ron Theibert, Angie Olsen and Alisa Ibey.

Vice Chairman Terry Fosbery called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes from the December meeting were discussed. Atkinson moved to approve the minutes as read; Munsinger seconded the motion.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Guests:

Don Hines wanted to know if we would need both of his buses this year. He has a potential client that would conflict with the fair dates. He would have one bus available even if he took this job. If we needed both, we would have to let him know in advance.

Ron Theibert wants to have the same deal as the race horse trainers in 2008. Theibert said that Jay told him they could have a similar deal this year, \$50.00 per month; Theibert would take care of the money and pay in the Fair Office. He said it is OK with him if the horsemen need a contract in 2009. Theibert reported that the Fantasy Sports Bill passed. The set-up is complicated and not up to their expectations. Theibert said that the Racing Journal said if it was set up like football, the betting would be more successful. Dykstra wants it noted in the minutes that the horsemen would lay out any monies spent and fine tune the contract. Dykstra made a motion to draft an agreement on expenditures and rules for the horsemen. Munsinger seconded it.

Theibert told the Fair Board that he read in the paper that the Library was looking at this property. He believes that we should keep as much agricultural land as we can for the kids. Fosbery said that the Fair Board had not been informed of the Library proposal, and that the Board feels the same way as Theibert.

Fosbery thanked Theibert for paying on time. Atkinson also thanked Theibert. Atkinson said that they were glad he took care of all the rent money. Fosbery told Theibert that Jay Scott would get in touch with him regarding the 2009 contract.

Angie Olsen and Alisa Ibey :

Alisa explained how the Chicks 'n Chaps worked in Missoula. Ibey said that they are bringing a chapter of Tough Enough to Wear Pink to Kalispell. They want to know if we wanted to be a part of it. Ibey told the Fair Board that Missoula's 4th year raised \$20,000 and the funds were distributed locally. In 2008, they raised \$50,000. Ibey would like to help us with our Tough Enough to Wear Pink night; she would like to see it grow and would like to be a part of it. Ibey said the Chicks 'n Chaps brought in 170 women who each paid \$50 to participate during the fair last year in Missoula. She let the Fair Board know that, in Missoula, the Fair Grounds gives the winning cowboy an extra \$100 if he is wearing pink during his winning ride.

Ibey talked about a rubber duck rodeo that her group was putting on this year. She told the board that they sell the ducks to make money for local cancer victims and will be in the mall this summer.

Fosbery said he thinks that we should do it; Atkinson thinks that it's a great community service. Fosbery said he will follow up with the Chicks 'n Chaps.

Commission Report

Munsinger reported that she was working on getting trophies for the mutton busting from Montana Silversmith. She needed to know how many trophies we would need for the event. Atkinson said that the WY fair ran the mutton busting in two divisions so we would need four (4) trophies.

Atkinson spoke about the Proposal Grant Request to Max Baucus for the new building. They are trying to get a personal meeting with the Appropriations Committee. The Grant is \$1.8 million for the 150' x 300' building and concession. Atkinson is getting letters from the Boys and Girls Club, Special Olympics, Penco and FFA, just to name a few. He stated that the building would be used for kids' education, AG and Learning Center; we could have all of our animal exhibits in there during the Fair on the dirt floor which would free up the Trade Center for more commercial exhibits. Atkinson added that the proposal will bring jobs to the Valley and help the economy. Atkinson also added that Max Baucus' office is very easy to deal with.

Dykstra reported that the county will loan us computers for the online ticket sales. He showed the Board a diagram for the online ticketing. Dykstra thinks that we will get rid of ticket booths outside the grandstand entry gates, and just sell tickets out of the Trade Center Building which will eliminate the extra help and the need for extra laptops. Atkinson disagreed and stated that the old farmers and people like himself will still want to buy the tickets the day of the show. Dykstra said that the future plan for ticketing is using the county line as we can then access the internet through the fire wall. Dykstra showed comparisons of three ticketing companies. Munsinger thinks maybe we should wait until next year because the Fair is coming up fast and we really don't have time to get everything together and be sure of the company we choose. Dykstra thinks we should

go for it and just do the minimum this year. Atkinson believes that, by the time we get tickets and the machines, the Fair will be here. He also thinks we don't need to jump in over our heads starting with the Fair. Dykstra said that EZ Tickets can get the stuff here next month. Atkinson said that we need to talk to Scott to see if we have the funds this year for the ticketing. Fosbery thinks we have to do the online ticketing and would like a motion regarding doing it this year or next year. Atkinson is concerned and stated that to err is human but to mess up big time is a computer issue. Munsinger is concerned about balancing at the end of the night and how all of that will work with the county. Fosbery has faith in the computers and thinks this will be a way to force us to get tickets away from the office so it is less hectic in the main office. Fosbery is in favor of going with online ticketing this year.

Dykstra said he would find out about a timeframe, power source, equipment and needed training. He said that he would be in charge of online ticketing.

Dykstra made a motion to go with the online ticketing and have Scott negotiate with EZ tickets. Dykstra amended the motion. Munsinger moved to accept the new motion as amended. Dykstra, Munsinger, and Fosbery voted to approve.

Old Business

Fosbery told the board that he has costs for the chutes. He doesn't feel that he is getting the go-ahead to order the chutes.

Atkinson thought maybe we should talk to Kestler before going ahead with any chute changes. Paul thinks that all the cowboys get the same chance now and is not sure that we need to change it. Fosbery told the Board that the Preifert cost to redo the holding pens will be in the \$10,000 - \$20,000 range.

New Business

No new business.

Manager's Report

No manager's report

Atkinson moved to adjourn the meeting; Dykstra seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Manager